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VALLEY QUEEN PLANS REDUCTION PLANT

Tom C. Gray, general manager of the Valley Queen mine, came down from the hills last Saturday evening, to attend an important meeting of the Sumpter District Mineral Exhibit association, of which he is secretary. To a Miner reporter Commodore Gray said that operations at the Valley Queen are being steadily prosecuted with most satisfactory results.

"We are sinking a winze on No. 4 drift on ore the best yet shown in the group, and at the same time we are raising on the ore shoot into the hill, gaining depth foot for foot. The prospects of this ore shoot are the highest yet encountered in the Valley Queen. Of course, it will take time and money to fully demonstrate the extent of this ore body. However, the values so far shown by my assays average \$56, and should this ore shoot continue, as it has every indication of doing, we will be called upon to install a reduction plant sooner than our calculations called for. Within the next four weeks I hope to have a sinking plant installed on the other side of Goddess mountain, and in time will connect our tunnel with the shaft. The outlook for the Valley Queen, after our winter's work, is surely a bright one."

IRON DYKE SALE NEXT TUESDAY

On April 4 another chapter will be written in the famous Iron Dyke mine litigation, which has now occupied the circuit court of Baker county and the federal courts of New York and Oregon for the past two years. On that date, Attorney Rosenzweig, of Erie, Pennsylvania, representing the mortgage holders of the mine, will be present, presumably to bid in the property at public sale, under a decree of foreclosure involving \$166,000. The parties represented by Attorney Rosenzweig are Conrad, Curtze et al, all of Erie, who advanced a great deal of money to Charles M. Reed and Mrs. Florence Shatto, owners of the mine. If the Conrad-Curtze faction secure the property, it is thought that they will at once complete construction of the old Northwest railway line from Huntington down the Oregon side of the Snake river to Ballard's Landing, and immediately begin the work of developing the Iron Dyke on a large scale. They are very wealthy men.

FACE OF OVERLAND DRIFT ALL IN HIGH GRADE ORE

Manager M. E. Bain returned from a trip to the Overland mine today in a particularly pleasant mood, notwithstanding the condition of the roads and the consequent hard trip.

When interviewed regarding the conditions at the mine, it was evident that the subject was the one nearest his heart, and he unboomed himself somewhat as follows:

"Do you know that there is nothing else that looks quite so good to a mining man as to have the whole face of the drift in ore, and then some? That was the sight that greeted me on my inspection of the drift we are running in what is known as the Cross cut tunnel. This ore was only recently struck. We have been going through some low grade stuff and the change is very gratifying. This shoot shows on the surface and has been prospected by open cuts for a distance of over 300 feet and then it is only a short distance to where another shoot, which was cut in the No. 1 tunnel, starts in.

"The ore is very similar to all that is found at depth in the Cove, and while it has not been tested, the appearance is such as to attest the values.

"No, the machinery for the concentrator has not been ordered yet. We are not decided as to the treatment best suited to the ore, but believe coarse crushing, jigging, reground the tailings and run over a table, with settlers for the slimes, will eventually be decided upon. It is our intention to make tests in different mills so that we can tell absolutely before erecting a plant.

"Yes, the plant will be erected some time during the summer. The money is practically in the treasury

of the company to pay for it, and as soon as the tests can be made and the plans decided upon the work will be started.

"The Cable Cove section promises to be very lively this season. The Imperial people are going to erect a mill, in addition to doing several hundred feet of development work. The latter will open the big Eagle vein at depth and it is expected the same high grade ore they have in the Imperial shaft will be found. The Crown Point has been driving a long crosscut tunnel and is expecting to cut its main vein any day. It has an excellent surface showing. The Last Chance, Alpine, Mormon group and others at the head of John Day are planning for an unusual amount of work, while the same can be said of the properties at the head of Bull, Big Limber and Lake creeks. Over on Sloan mountain they have struck some good stuff in the McKinley and Roosevelt, and some good reports are also coming from the Valley Queen.

"Our greatest need is transportation. If those railroad people can ever be induced to make a thorough inspection of the ore dumps in our camp they will not ask for a subscription to build, but will be glad to get the traffic. They would not have any difficulty in the way of grades and the road could be extended into a belt line to cover the LaBellevue, Buffalo, Magnolia, Cougar, May Queen, Blue Bird, Red Boy, Alamo and on into the Greenhorn, returning by the Bonanza. Such a railroad would mean much for the camp in the way of development, but it would also mean big dividends to those fortunate to hold the stock.

"The roads are improving rapidly and it will not be long before the dust will be flying."

THAT LEAD COMBINE IS FINALLY FIXED

A New York dispatch of late date says: After years of negotiations, a deal has just been consummated, according to the Tribune, by which the seven sons of Mr. Guggenheim, who died a few days ago, have achieved, in conjunction with their allied interests, a union of the National Lead company, commonly known as the "White Lead Trust," capitalized at \$30,000,000, with the United Lead company, a Guggenheim concern, the total authorized capital stock of which is \$25,000,000. Formal statement, giving the details of the merger will be issued immediately. It is believed the capital of the holding company will be about \$40,000,000.

The consolidated concern will be known as the National Lead company. President Cole and most of the other officers of the present National Lead company will hold the same offices in the new company. It is said. The Guggenheims, however, will dominate the directorate.

Through the organization of the Guggenheim Exploration company, which was lately taken into the American Smelting & Refining company, the Guggenheim interests, which aggregate about 250,000 tons a year, valued at \$25,000,000, of which 140,000 tons are turned into mechanical products, such as sheet lead, lead pipe, solder, bullets, shot, etc., and 110,000 tons into chemical products, including white lead and litharge.

The new deal brings into the combination the old National Lead company, which makes about 65 per cent of the chemical lead product of the country and about 15 per cent of the mechanical products with the Union Lead & Oil company, which practically controls 65 per cent of the mechanical business and 15 per cent of the chemical output.

Roll of Honor.

The roll of honor of subscribers to the exhibit fund is as follows to date:

City of Sumpter	350
Town of Granite	200
Harry T. Hendryx	\$250
N. J. Sorensen & Co	50
Killen, Warner, Stewart company	50
J. P. Holland	50
Bergman & McWatty	50
Sumpter Meat company	50
First National Bank	50
Van Vleet & Wright	50
Basche-Sage Hardware Co.	50
R. E. Strahorn	100
Thornburg & Love	50
Case Furniture Co.	50
Sumpter Steam Laundry	50
E. J. Bartholf	25

EVERYBODY FEARED \$20 BILL WAS PHONY

L. R. Bellman, general manager of the Cracker-Oregon and California mines, was the only man in Sumpter today who attempted an April fool day joke. He hung a \$20 bill tantalizingly on Ed. Wensberg's cigar lighter, and not a man in the city would touch it for fear of being "sold." Dick Neill stood on his

corner for an hour gazing steadfastly at the sky, hoping someone would come along and ask what was up. Not a soul displayed the expected curiosity and Dick was himself fooled. Tom Dunphy strolled around town and told his many friends that today he was serving free drinks. He rather expected a few hundred thirsty panhandlers to show up and avail themselves of his liberality, in which event he figured on serving beer glasses full of water; but everybody displayed a "leary" spirit. Taken all in all, April fools' day was a sort of frost in Sumpter.